



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

Gary D. Maynard
Secretary

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DPPSCS Contact: Mark Vernarelli (410) 339-5065
Danielle Wilmsen (410) 339-5011
BCPD Contact: Bill Toohey (410) 887-2210

Parole and Probation Agents Help Baltimore County Police Department Nab Their Guy

Offender wanted on an assault charge,
and for questioning in a murder case

TOWSON, MD (September 26, 2008)--- On Tuesday, September 23, Maryland Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) Agent Alicia LaRue conducted more than just a routine home visit on a Probation supervisee. This visit, coordinated by DPP and the Baltimore County Police Department (BCPD), resulted in the arrest of an offender wanted on a warrant for First Degree Assault in connection with a stabbing in Baltimore County on September 1. Police were also interested in questioning the individual about a separate murder case.

The arrest is evidence of more proactive DPP and how collaboration with local law enforcement has become a top priority for the Division. Through better information sharing, the Baltimore County Police learned Lucas Baumeister was currently being supervised by the DPP office in Baltimore County under the Violence Prevention Unit (VPU) for Possession of a Controlled and Dangerous Substance with Intent to Distribute.

Needing a way to ensure Baumeister would be home when they arrived to serve the warrant, county police contacted the VPU through a Parole and Probation Liaison and working with Agent LaRue, set up an offender home visit the next day. It is not uncommon for an officer to accompany an agent on a home visit. In this case the agent simply conducted her routine interview and upon completion the officer took the individual into custody without conflict.

"Teamwork with local law enforcement is vital when overseeing offenders who are living in our communities," stated Pat McGee, Director of Maryland's Parole and Probation. "We are always eager to assist in any way, especially when it comes to this particular group of supervisees who are in the Violence Prevention Initiative."

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The Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI) is an intensive parole and probation supervision unit that deals specifically with offenders who have a history of violent crime. The unit, which started in 2007, is a statewide DPP initiative with a total of over 1,500 supervisees assigned. Baltimore County accounts for a little over 300 VPI offenders, who are closely supervised and any violations are immediately acted upon in hopes of keeping these offenders off the streets.

"The Violence Prevention Initiative is an important new partnership for law enforcement," Jim Johnson, Chief of the Baltimore County Police Department, reiterated. "As the Baumeister case illustrates, the Baltimore County Police Department, working together with the Division of Parole and Probation, is now able to reach out more effectively and aggressively to arrest violent offenders. This partnership means safer streets for everyone who lives and works in Baltimore County."

Recently, DPP and the BCPD teamed up to collaborate on a full time basis with the implementation of a permanent DPP Liaison on site at police headquarters. The position is modeled after the Watch Center with the Baltimore City Police Department.

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